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Message Text

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45
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05

AGR-05 RSC-01 /046 W
---------- 087194
R 171230Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5743
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 16751

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN
SUBJECT: TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI'S 16574

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL VISIT WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL (SHROFF). SHROFF WELCOMED VISIT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THE

GROUP WOULD SPEND ITS FIRST FULL WORKING DAY IN DELHI TO ALLOW OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS WITH INDIAN MINISTERS AND PERMIT ADEQUATE TIME FOR DISCUSSION OF ALL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO GROUP.

2. SHROFF STRESSED THAT VISIT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A USG VISIT TO BANK PROJECTS SINCE THIS WOULD PRODUCE PRECEDENT THAT MANY COUNTRIES MIGHT SEEK TO EMULATE. VISIT WAS WELCOMED BY GOI AS VISIT BY EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS INTERESTED IN INDIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. GROUP MIGHT ALSO WISH TO MEET WITH BANK OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND DELHI BUT THIS WOULD NOT BE PRIMARY FOCUS.

3. SHROFF OUTLINED VARIOUS POSSIBLE VISITS OUTSIDE DELHI AS FOLLOWS: CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA (NANGAL FERTILIZER PLANT AND
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AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS), RAJASTHAN, EITHER JAIPUR OR UDAIPUR

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(RAJASTHAN CANAL), GANGALORE (INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS), BOMBAY (WATER SUPPLY, FERTILIZER PLANT AND ICICI). POSSIBLE CONSTRAINTS WERE AVAILABILITY OF HOTEL ROOMS OTHER THAN IN DELHI AND BOMBAY, ADEQUATE LANDING FACILITIES AND MILITARY/SECURITY LIMITATIONS IN US AIRCRAFT (CHANDIGARH AIRFIELD IS SENSITIVE AREA FOR GOI). SHROFF PROMISED TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN DAY OR TWO SINCE EARLY DECISION REQUIRED DUE TO HOTEL REQUIREMENTS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI WILL GIVE COMPLETE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. PROBLEM IS TO SELECT PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO GROUP WHICH ALSO POSE NO OVERWHELMING PHYSICAL PROBLEMS, E.G. HOTEL ROOM AVAILABILITY, LANDING FACILITIES, NONEXCESSIVE ROAD TRANSPORT. GOI CLEARLY SENSITIVE ON ISSUE OF PURPOSE OF VISIT AND WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONCUR IN GOI APPROACH WHICH MEETS ALL OUR NEEDS.

5. WE SHALL SUBMIT PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS AS SOON AS RECEIVED.
MOYNIHAN

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